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***** T O P S E C R E T *****S COPY

ROUTINE
DE WTE #4575 261230Z
R 180203Z SEP 76
FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 36//

TO CONVEY/PASSAGE/ROOMMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY
VIA BLACK PATCH WH61293

TOHAK 36

MORI C03205119

SEPTEMBER 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM THE SITUATION ROOM

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ITEMS

UNUSUAL DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH KOREA: SINCE EARLY SEPTEMBER, SOME UNUSUAL TRENDS HAVE DEVELOPED IN NORTH KOREA. NORTH KOREA HAS CURTAILED DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY ABROAD TO SOME EXTENT AND HAS CANCELED OR POSTPONED THE VISITS OF SOME FOREIGN PERSONNEL, INCLUDING THAT OF THE IVORY COAST'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UN. NORTH KOREA ASKED THAT A CONFERENCE OF CUSTOMS DIRECTORS BE MOVED FROM NORTH KOREA TO ANOTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRY AND HAS POSTPONED A SCHEDULED MID-SEPTEMBER YOUTH CONFERENCE, WHICH DELEGATES FROM 80 NATIONS HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO ATTEND. NORTH KOREAN PARTY OFFICIALS ARE AGAIN USING TERMINOLOGY NOTED DURING NORTH KOREA'S DEFENSIVE ALERT AFTER THE PANMUNJOM INCIDENT. A NATION-WIDE CONFERENCE OF SOME MIDDLE-LEVEL PARTY PERSONNEL HAS BEEN CALLED BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE; THE DATE AND PURPOSE ARE UNKNOWN. SOUTH KOREAN SPECULATION ABOUT KIM IL-SONG'S HEALTH HAS BEEN INCREASING, CITING RUMORS FROM FOREIGN SOURCES TO THE EFFECT THAT HE IS GRAVELY ILL. U.S. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR LEBANON: THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN MOVING PAINFULLY SLOW IN FOLLOWING UP THE COMMITMENT TO URGENTLY EXAMINE ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS FOR INCREASING U.S. RELIEF ASSISTANCE (PER THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO ABDOUREZKI). NOW, HOWEVER, IN RESPONSE TO A DIRECT ORDER FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER THE BUREAUCRACY IS

***** WHSR COMMENT *****

SEC FILE

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MOVING SERIOUSLY TOWARD DEVELOPING A BROAD PACKAGE, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WHICH COULD BE KEYED TO THE NEW SARKIS GOVERNMENT. WHEN THE SECRETARY DEBRIEFED HOUGHTON AND NACK LAST WEEK, THEY CONVEYED THE INTEREST OF THE LEBANESE CHRISTIANS IN THE SPECIFIC ITEMS NOTED BELOW. THE SECRETARY ASKED FOR URGENT RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW WE SHOULD RESPOND TO THESE REQUESTS, THE MAIN POINT BEING THAT ANY PACKAGE OF AID SHOULD BUTTRESS THE NEW SARKIS GOVERNMENT AND NOT HOVE EXCLUSIVELY IN SUPPORT OF THE CHRISTIANS. STATE HAS DRAFTED A PACKAGE BRINGING TOGETHER A NUMBER OF OPTIONS WE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING. ON THE CHRISTIAN REQUESTS, STATE RECOMMENDS THAT (A) WE PROGRAM TITLE I (A PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION WILL BE REQUIRED) AND TITLE II WHEAT FOR A TOTAL OF 140,000 METRIC TONS OVER FY 77; (B) WE DO NOT SUPPLY FUEL SINCE THIS COULD APPEAR WAR-RELATED (THERE ARE ALTERNATIVE SOURCES); (C) WE EXPLORE AT THE PROPER TIME PORTABLE EARTH SATELLITE STATIONS, INCLUDING LINKS TO WEST BEIRUT, WITH U.S. PRIVATE COMPANIES AND THE INTELSAT BOARD. BROADENING THE PACKAGE, STATE ALSO PROPOSED STEPPED UP U.S. GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES, INCLUDING THE DISPATCH OF AMERICAN VOLUNTEER NURSES TO LEBANON UNDER ICRC AUSPICES, SECURITY CONDITIONS PERMITTING, AND AN INTENSIFIED ADMINISTRATION CAMPAIGN TO SEEK SUPPORT FOR THE RELIEF EFFORT, INCLUDING THE U.S. PRIVATE SECTOR (IF APPROVED, THEY WOULD EXPLORE WITH US THE POSSIBILITY OF A WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE). THESE EFFORTS PLUS THE PASSAGE IN HOUSE-SENATE APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCES THIS WEEK OF THE \$20 MILLION IN RELIEF FUNDS FOR LEBANON SHOULD ENABLE US TO LAUNCH A SUITABLE PROGRAM IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW SARKIS GOVERNMENT. (OAKLEY/NIEHUS)

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